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WHY IS ALISON BRIE A CREEPY COPYCAT?

ACTRESS SAYS SHE HAD TO 'STALK' EMILY BLUNT IN STUDYING FOR THE ROLE OF HER SISTER PAGE 15

SASKATOON metro®

WEEKEND, April 20-22, 2012

News worth sharing.

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Bidding wars for homes across the country are up, including in Saskatchewan. NATHAN RAINE/FOR METRO

House hunters ready to start bidding wars

Real estate survey. 48% of people on the Prairies willing to go up to 110% of listed price

A recent survey shows one-quarter of people polled in Canada would get into a bidding war when buying a home, with the likelihood being even higher in Saskatchewan.

The report compiled for BMO by Leger Marketing shows that roughly 32 per cent of people in Saskatchewan and Manitoba would be willing to enter into a bidding war.

"They're prepared to, if they find a house they want," said Larry Stewart, the chief executive officer and broker owner of RE/MAX Saskatoon and Prince Albert. "We just did one yesterday where there was three competing offers."

Although realtors are seeing bidding now, Stewart said there were more people entering into bidding wars in 2007, as buyers from Alberta were buying and flipping houses.

"There's a little more supply ... and it's probably not as hot a market," said Stewart. "There were people from Alberta coming in, buying houses and flipping, so that's not there," he said, adding that it's now more of a case of people competing against each other within Saskatchewan.

Stewart also said it looks like the province is getting closer to reaching those 2007 levels again.

"Not yet, we're not there," said Stewart. "We're certainly closer to it than we were six months ago."

The BMO report was complied with information collected online through a survey from March 19 to March 22, of this year. There were 1,000 Canadian home and condo owners surveyed.

MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

Convicts will be moving

Kingston Penitentiary, the home of notorious killers Paul Bernardo and Russell Williams, is closing PAGE 3

Prairies to see grasslands shift

Report released before Earth Day examines the effect climate change will have on local species PAGE 2

Hockey's gritty side

Seeing punches exchanged has hockey greats wondering if today's game is crossing the line from thrilling to thuggery PAGE 22

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1 NEWS

On the web

Tree house under threat

Armed with blind naiveté and supreme determination, a rookie carpenter living out of his car set out to build his first "house." Joel Allen's dream tree house deep in a B.C. forest (and built with no electrical power) is being threatened. Watch at metronews.ca

Going all out for prom

Never mind a text that meekly asks "will u go 2 prom w/me?" Today's high-schoolers are taking a cue from elaborately staged wedding proposals, inviting each other to prom with flash mobs, scavenger hunts, homemade music videos and even airplane banners flying over the beach. Full story and videos at metronews.ca

Mobile news

Good news for New York bats. Researchers have found brown-bat populations are rebounding after millions were killed by the deadly white-nose syndrome. Scan the code for the story.

Prairies could see shift in grasslands: Study

Climate change. Saskatchewan Research Council says next 100 years will look very different

MORGAN MODJESKI
morgan.modjeski@metronews.ca

Closely aligned with Earth Day 2012, the Saskatchewan Research Council released a study that examines the effect climate change will have on the Prairie's grasslands.

The report, titled The Vulnerability of Prairie Grasslands to Climate Change, looks at how Saskatchewan and other Prairie grasslands will react to climate change over the next century.

Jeff Thorpe, lead researcher on the paper, said climate change will result in fewer indigenous species and a massive shift in vegetation to the north of the province.

"Everything is going to shift northward," said Thorpe. "It starts with the vegetation zone shifting northward.... We've got that boundary line running through the province where we've got grasslands to the south of it and forest to the north of it, and that line depends on climate and it is expected to shift northward."

Thorpe said in addition to forcing vegetation and wildlife north, climate change will also have an effect on the types of vegetation found in the Prairies, with species from the U.S. eventually ending up here.

"We expect different kinds of grassland to come into Canada," said Thorpe. "This warmer climate that's being predicted, if you look where this climate exists now, it's down in the States, so the kind of grassland that they have to the south of us in the Dakotas, Montana or Wyoming, we expect to gradually move northward into Canada."

Quoted

"We expect different kinds of grasslands to come into Canada (from the Dakotas, Montana or Wyoming)."
Jeff Thorpe, lead researcher

Earth Day

- The first Earth Day was celebrated in the U.S. on April 22, 1972.
- More than 1 billion people from around the world participate in Earth Day activities each year.
- More than six million Canadians join in the events and projects to address local environmental issues.
- Nearly every school child in Canada takes part in Earth Day activities. EARTHDAY.CA

A pair of tundra swans take off from Slack Slough on April 19, 2010. RANDY FIEDLER/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Football. Veteran quarterback O'Sullivan joins Roughriders

The Saskatchewan Roughriders added some veteran talent under centre Thursday, signing former NFL quarterback J.T. O'Sullivan.

The 32-year-old has played with 10 teams over nine seasons in the NFL. He was named the San Francisco 49ers' starting quarterback heading into the 2008 season, completing 128 of 220 passes for 1,678 yards and eight touchdowns.

O'Sullivan also threw 11 interceptions, fumbled 11 times and was sacked 32 times in starting eight games.

A sixth-round pick of New Orleans in 2002, the six-foot-two, 232-pound O'Sullivan threw for 1,866 yards and 13 touchdowns to go along with 39 rushing attempts for 145 yards in his NFL career.

The Roughriders also announced they have released the following import players: quarterback Matt Johnson, offensive lineman Clint Oldenburg, linebacker Alvin Bowen, defensive back Jamaal Fudge, defensive back Justin Wilson and defensive line Dario Romero.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Civic election

Davies to run for Ward 4 council

Troy Davies, director of public relations at MD Ambulance, has announced he will be running for the Ward 4 councillor's seat in this year's civic election.

"I look forward to working with the residents of Ward 4 and the City of Saskatoon to address the issues that we know are facing our community," said Davies in a press release.

Davies looks to fill the seat of current Ward 4 councillor Myles Heidt, who announced his plans for retirement.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dangerous driving

Boy pleads guilty in friend's death

A 17-year-old boy accused of dumping an injured friend in a Saskatoon alley after a collision involving a stolen vehicle has pleaded guilty to dangerous driving causing death.

Court heard police were called to a back lane last April where they found another 17-year-old boy with severe head injuries. He died a few days later in hospital, and investigators determined he had been a passenger in a stolen auto that was involved in a single-vehicle crash in the city's west end.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hospital fundraiser

Brent Butt backs Children's Hospital

Hometown hero Brent Butt, creator of Corner Gas, will be in Saskatoon Friday for the Children's Hospital Foundation of Saskatchewan's (CHFS) dinner and auction.

Brynn Boback-Lane, president and CEO of the CHFS, said the fundraising goal for the event is $200,000, and Butt told Metro he's always happy to help the foundation.

"When you hear the words 'sick' and 'children' together, it should be automatic that you do whatever you can to help," said Butt.

MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

Kingston Pen to shut doors after 177 years

Strained system. Closure will add pressure to Ontario jail system: Correctional Services minister

A view of the Kingston Penitentiary. LARS HAGBERG/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Ontario is blasting a federal plan to close down two prisons, including one in Kingston, even though the province is itself shutting down several jails to save money.

Correctional Services Minister Madeleine Meilleur said Thursday she wasn't happy about the announcement, saying the closure of the Kingston prison that holds killers Paul Bernardo and Russell Williams would put more strain on the provincial system.

"We're already housing some of their inmates because they don't have space in their federal penitentiary and now they're closing one of their larger ones, so I don't understand their decision," she said.

The government will close Kingston Penitentiary, the country's oldest penal institution, as well as the Leclerc prison near Montreal as part of a cost-cutting effort.

The iconic Kingston prison, a national historic site whose turreted limestone walls are a waterfront landmark, dates back to 1835.

Public Safety Minister Vic Toews said the closures will save $120 million a year as the inmates are shifted to more modern prisons.

"Moving these offenders to other facilities will increase safety and security and ensure the best use of hard-working Canadians' tax dollars," he said.

"Institutions built in the 19th century are not appropriate for managing a 21st-century inmate population."

Meilleur argued the move was especially surprising after Ottawa introduced a tougher crime bill.

"With C-10, there'll be more people that are being put in jail so we'll need more beds so it's going to put pressure to the province because we are already housing some of their clients.

Toews disagreed.

He said dire predictions of a spike in the prison population because of the Conservative government's crime policies were misplaced.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Icebergs abound off coast

Sightseers line the shore as two icebergs sit grounded near St. John's, N.L., on Wednesday. KEITH GOSSE/ST. JOHN'S TELEGRAM/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Double lung transplant recipient suffers setback

Helene Campbell, a double lung transplant recipient, is shown in a handout photo from April 18. THE CAMPBELL FAMILY/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Helene Campbell, the Ottawa woman who underwent a double lung transplant in Toronto on April 7, has suffered a setback in her recovery.

Campbell's mother, Manon, says after being taken off a ventilator last Saturday, the young woman began to have breathing problems.

Her mother wrote that "unfortunately, breathing became very difficult for her on Sunday evening" and a breathing tube was re-inserted.

Campbell is receiving steroids to combat the early onset of rejection and is also being treated for a lung infection at Toronto General Hospital.

Her double transplant became necessary after she was diagnosed with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis and her condition worsened.

The update was posted on her daughter's website on Wednesday, which was Helene's 21st birthday and Campbell's mom wrote that her daughter celebrated her birthday in good spirits.

"We witnessed some of her first dance moves, bobbing her head and shoulders to the tune of Walking on Broken Glass by Annie Lennox today," she wrote.

"Despite the challenges, Helene still manages to make us and the nursing staff laugh."

Campbell's story made world headlines earlier this year after pop star Justin Bieber endorsed her campaign to promote organ donation.

She also made an appearance on the talk show Ellen via Skype, and has gained a legion of followers on Twitter.

Social media has played a key role in advancing her cause.

Campbell started raising awareness of organ donation after being diagnosed with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, which requires a transplant.

She received new lungs on April 7 after her condition took a turn for the worse and had slowly been recovering since then. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Standoff

Armed man arrested inside Iqaluit hospital

A man has been arrested and is undergoing a mental- health assessment following a brief standoff with police in a hospital waiting room in Iqaluit.

Police said the man carrying a rifle entered the Qikiqtani General Hospital shortly after noon Thursday.

"It's hard to tell right now exactly what the motive was," said RCMP Sgt. Kevin Lewis. "I don't really know what his demands were."

One wing of the 35-bed hospital was evacuated. A police negotiator was able to defuse the situation peacefully, Lewis said. There was no indication the man was drunk or on drugs.

"It was strictly a mental-health issue with him," said Lewis. "He was up and down. Sometimes he was angry, sometimes he was sad."

After a brief spell in custody, the 23-year-old man was been taken back.

"We were thinking, 'Can we really bring him back to the hospital?'" said Lewis. "But that's where he has to go."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Air Canada

Pilots return to the bargaining table

Air Canada and its pilots will give negotiations one last try in an effort to avoid having to accept a settlement that would be imposed under recently passed federal legislation.

The two sides announced Thursday night that they've agreed to return to the bargaining table for 10 days to try to reach a tentative deal under the guidance of a federal arbitrator.

The airline was poised to lock out the pilots earlier this year, but the move was short-circuited by the federal government, which passed legislation blocking either side from initiating job action and imposing a new contract.

The move was angrily received by many of its 3,000 pilots, and was followed by some pilots calling in sick on more than one occasion, disrupting the airline's schedule and angering passengers.

Air Canada went to the Canada Industrial Relations Board, which said the so-called "sick-in," which wasn't officially backed by the union, amounted to an illegal strike.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Trial. Cell records trace phone to murder scene

Cellphone records for the man accused of killing Victoria Stafford show he appeared to trace a route from Woodstock, Ont., to Mount Forest, Ont., and back on April 8, 2009 — the same route the Crown alleges he took to abduct and kill the eight-year-old, court heard Thursday. A call was made on Michael Rafferty's phone was routed through a tower near Mount Forest, his trial was told. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Michael Rafferty. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Plastic bricks and mortar

Giant Lego trees and flowers are installed in a pedestrian mall in Sydney, Thursday. The installation begins a nine-month-long Festival of Play, celebrating the popular toy bricks' 50th anniversary in Australia.

RICK RYCROFT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Italy cashes in on alternative Sardex currency

Euro. One region is beating the euro woes by using an alternative barter currency

LILLO MONTALTO MONELLA
Metro World News

An Italian region is living without the euro as a growing number of Sardinians have adopted the alternative currency Sardex, an online circuit of commercial transactions to barter goods and services.

"We saw what was coming from the U.S. after the Lehman Brothers' collapse and we prepared an appropriate answer suitable for our small context," Sardex co-founder and CEO Gabriele Littera, 26, told Metro.

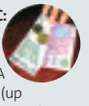
"If a restaurant owner now struggles to fill his diner with people, our brokers will contact other associates to help him out."

A restaurant owner can earn Sardex credits by offering a meal and eventually spend them in advertising, marketing consultancy or computer support provided by people belonging to the same network.

Founded in 2009 by four young local entrepreneurs in Serramanna in Southern Sardinia, the network has grown to include 500 business owners, a number expected to double by the end of the year.

Top 5 alternative currencies

- **Germany: the chiemgauer:** It started as a school project but now accounts for more than 2,500 regular users, achieving a $6.6 million turnover in 2011.
- **Switzerland: the WIR Bank:** Funded in 1934 as a result of the 1929 stock market crash, it is one of the oldest and most successful complementary currencies, oriented towards small and mid-sized corporations.
- **Italy: Arcipelago SCEC:** Founders claim it is one of the biggest networks of the kind in Europe. A discount-based system (up to 30-40 per cent off the original price), it is spread in 12 Italian regions with more than 11,000 members and 2,500 associated firms.



- **LETS (Local Exchange Trading System):** Spread all around the world, LETSystems, are not-for-profit, interest-free enterprises allowing people to exchange goods and services using LETS credits.
- **Belgium: Société Coöpérative RES:** founded in 1996, it is an alternative currency used by more than 5,000 retailers.

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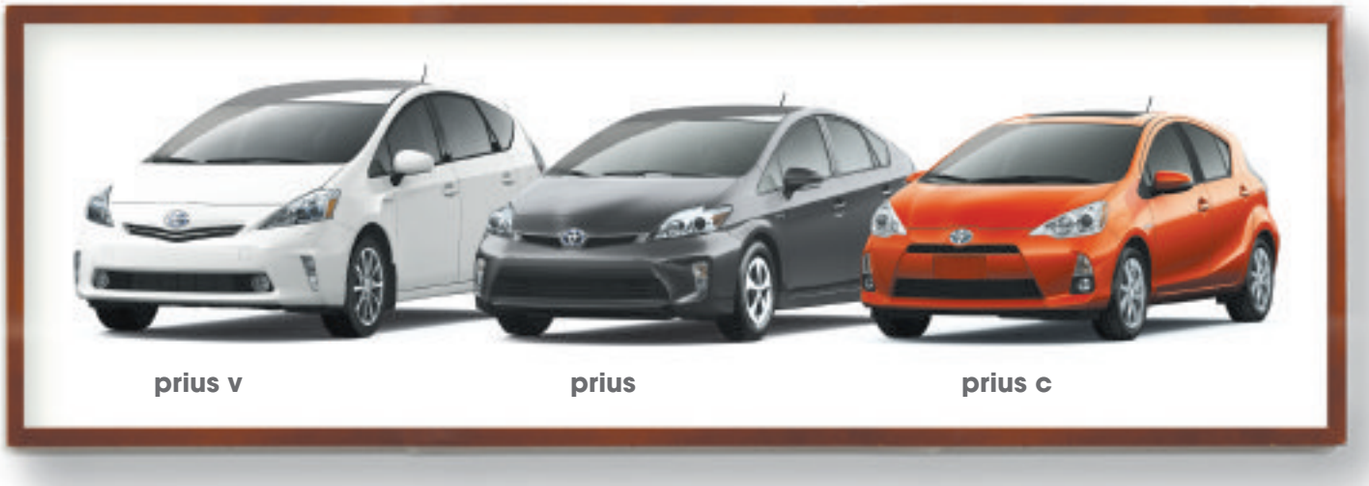

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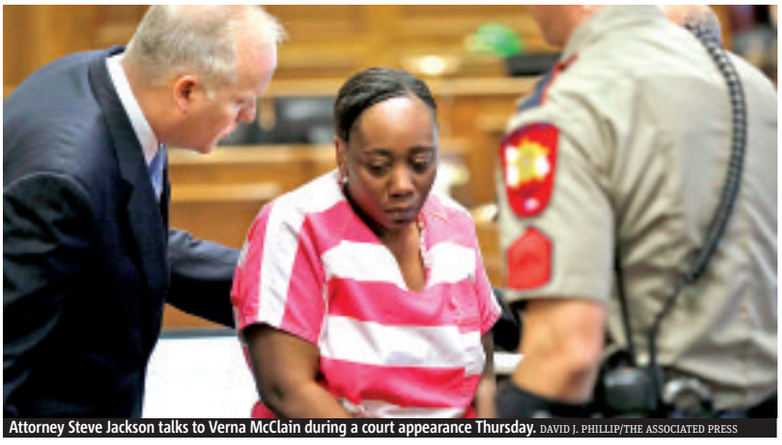
Capital murder charge may carry death sentence

Fatal shooting. Verna McClain is accused of shooting 28-year-old Kala Golden in the parking lot of a pediatric clinic



Attorney Steve Jackson talks to Verna McClain during a court appearance Thursday. DAVID J. PHILLIP/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A nurse accused of fatally shooting a new mother and speeding away with the dying woman's infant son in suburban Houston quietly told a judge Thursday that she understood she was facing capital murder charges.

Verna McClain, who investigators said recently suffered a miscarriage and was desperate to find a child, looked down and spoke softly during the brief court appearance. Her bond hearing was delayed until Monday, though the 30-year-old mother of three will remain jailed until then.

McClain is accused of shooting 28-year-old Kala Golden in the parking lot of a suburban Houston pediatric clinic on Tuesday and snatching Golden's 3-day-old son. The infant was found safe hours later with McClain's sister, who told investigators that McClain planned to adopt the boy.

Handcuffed and wearing a pink and white striped prison uniform, McClain told the judge that she understood the charges against her. The judge delayed McClain's bond hearing to give her court-appointed attorneys more time to work on the case.

The capital murder charge carries a potential death sentence.

Authorities said McClain was so desperate to find a child that she went exactly where she knew she could find one: The pediatric clinic where she had taken her three children for checkups.

But when McClain went to the clinic this week, her choice of which child — and mother — to target appeared to have been random.

"There is nothing to indicate this was anything beyond planning further than going to the clinic," Capt. Bruce Zenor of the Montgomery County sheriff's office said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mass murder in Norway.
Killer also had gruesome plans for prime minister

Confessed mass killer Anders Behring Breivik testified Thursday that he had planned to capture and decapitate former Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland during his shooting massacre on Utoya island.

Breivik said his plan was to film the beheading and post the video on the Internet. Brundtland had already left the Labor Party's youth camp on Utoya when Breivik arrived on July 22, after setting off a bomb in Oslo that killed eight people.

Sixty-nine people, mostly teenagers, were killed on Utoya, where nearly 600 members of the Labour Party's youth wing had gathered for their annual summer retreat.

"The plan was to behead Gro Harlem Brundtland while it was being filmed," Breivik told the court.

The far-right fanatic said he was inspired by al-Qaida's use of decapitation but noted that "beheading is a traditional European death penalty."

"It was meant to be used as a very powerful psychological weapon," he said.

Breivik also testified that he had prepared for his attacks by cutting off contact with the outside world and devoting himself to two computer games — "Modern Warfare" and ""World of Warcraft," playing the second one for 16 hours a day.

Anders Behring Breivik
ERLAND AAS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brundtland was prime minister for the Labor Party for 10 years. She later headed the World Health Organization.

"Gro Harlem Brundtland has no comment on the information provided by Breivik, nor the court case in general," her adviser Jon Moerland told The Associated Press.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NASA's Discovery shuttle lands at museum

Shuttles Enterprise, left, and Discovery meet nose-to-nose at the beginning of a transfer ceremony at the Smithsonian. CAROLYN RUSSO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Discovery on display. World's most travelled spaceship will be presented as though it just landed

NASA turned over space shuttle Discovery on Thursday to the Smithsonian Institution, the first in its orbiter fleet to be transferred to a U.S. museum.

The U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, astronauts including former Sen. John Glenn and several thousand visitors with American flags greeted Discovery. It will retire as an artifact representing the 30-year shuttle program.

The world's most travelled spaceship has been lifted off its Boeing 747 carrier and towed to the museum near Dulles International Airport.

Curator Valerie Neal said Discovery will be displayed as if it just landed, with its large payload bay doors closed. Some of its side panels are worn and discolored, and tiles on its underbelly show streaks from the flames of re-entry to the atmosphere.

The top question museum visitors have been asking is whether they will be able to walk inside Discovery or see the flight deck, Neal said.

"We don't permit that here because we treat all of the aircraft and spacecraft as artifacts, not as exhibit props," she said. Allowing people to walk inside would require cutting a bigger hatch, which would damage it.

Instead, the museum has created 360-degree interactive pictures of Discovery's flight deck and mid deck. Soon there will also be images of the payload bay accessible at kiosks near the Discovery display.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Blast off!

Discovery flew every type of mission during the 30-year shuttle program

- **Space missons.** Discovery deployed satellites including Hubble, as well as top secret Defence Department missions in the 1980s with military astronauts on board.
- **Back on ground.** The space shuttle fleet was retired in 2004, so NASA could fund building new spaceships.

Indecent exposure

Science teacher fired over stint in porn film

A Southern California science teacher has been fired for performing in a pornographic video.

Oxnard School District trustees voted in closed session Wednesday night to fire Stacie Halas, who taught seventh- and eighth-graders at Richard B. Haydock Intermediate School.

She had been on paid administrative leave since her appearance on the video surfaced last month. No students are in the video.

The video, available on adult sex websites, was apparently produced before she became an Oxnard teacher in 2009.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Epic flight

Slovenian pilot takes eco-friendly tour around the world

A Slovenian pilot has completed a 62,000-mile (99,774-kilometre) journey around the globe in a fuel-saving ultralight plane.

Matevz Lenarcic, a biologist and conservationist, started flying Jan. 8 from Slovenia. His route took him to Africa, then North and South America, onto Australia and Asia, over Mount Everest — the world's highest mountain — across India and back home on Thursday.

The Slovenian-made Virus-SW914 ultralight plane can fly 2,485 miles (3,999 kilometres) on only 348 litres of fuel.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shark attack

Surfer killed in Cape Town

A shark killed a surfer off Cape Town Thursday, South African police said.

Police spokesman Andre Traut said the 20-year-old South African was in the water with his brother and a friend at the time of the attack. Police did not immediately release the man's name.

Following the attack, the government cancelled a permit that had allowed a research film crew to throw fish and blood into the water to attract sharks, a practice known as chumming. Critics had said the chumming could attract sharks to popular beaches, but the government's department of environmental affairs said it was too far from shore for it to be a threat.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Secret service. Chairman predicts more firings amid prostitution scandal

A top lawmaker briefed on the investigation into a Secret Service prostitution scandal predicted more firings would follow the forced ouster of three agency employees.

"I wouldn't be surprised if you saw more dismissals and more being forced out sooner rather than later," Rep. Peter King, a Republican, said Thursday. King is being updated on the investigation by Secret Service director Mark Sullivan.

The Secret Service is moving quickly to quell the scandal that erupted last week, when at least some of 11 agency employees implicated in the incident brought prostitutes back to their hotel in Cartagena, Colombia, where they were setting up security for a visit by President Barack Obama.

So far, three people have lost their jobs; One supervisor was allowed to retire, and another will be fired for cause. A third employee, who was not a supervisor, has resigned.

The two supervisors are in the agency's uniformed division; one is a sergeant, according to a person familiar with Secret Service operations and refused to be identified because he was not authorized to discuss the matter.

Investigation

- Hotel workers told Secret Service investigators they found no drugs or drug paraphernalia in the rooms where the agents stayed, according to a person familiar with the investigation. The person was not authorized to discuss the probe publicly and spoke only on condition of anonymity.
- Sen. Chuck Grassley, the senior Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee, said news of the three agents leaving the Secret Service was a positive development.

The team under investigation includes members of the agency's "jump teams," which are sent to sites ahead of the president's arrival to set up security. Others involved are on counter-assault and counter-sniper teams. The majority of those involved are believed to be based in the Washington area. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Afghans call for quick international exit over gruesome photos

Military. U.S. soldiers posing with corpses is the latest embarrassment jeopardizing relations between two countries

Afghan President Hamid Karzai, centre, said Thursday that his government is "taking a magnifying glass" to proposals for the country's strategic partnership deal with the United States and scrutinizing every detail.
MUSADEQ SADEQ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Afghan President Hamid Karzai condemned photographs of U.S. soldiers posing with the bloodied remains of three suicide bombers as "disgusting" and said Thursday that only a quicker exit of international forces can prevent such missteps.

Karzai joined top American officials in denouncing that two-year-old photos, the latest in a string of embarrassing controversies that have jeopardized relations between the two countries in the midst of negotiations over the withdrawal of foreign troops.

He also warned that "similar incidents of an odious nature" in the past sparked angry reactions from Afghans, including violent protests that left dozens dead, although there was no immediate sign of a popular backlash.

One photos shows members of the 82nd Airborne Division posing in 2010 with Afghan police holding the severed legs of a suicide bomber. The same platoon a few months later was sent to investigate the remains of three insurgents reported to have accidentally blown themselves up — and soldiers again posed and mugged for a photo with the remains.

A photo from the second incident appears to show the hand of a dead insurgent resting on a U.S. soldier's shoulder.

"The only way to put an end to such painful experiences is through an accelerated and full transition of security responsibilities to Afghan forces," Karzai said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Allegations

Priest never investigated, jury hears

A Philadelphia priest described by prosecutors as a serial predator was never investigated after a seminarian's lurid 1992 complaint because the case "fell through the cracks."

That's what Monsignor William Lynn told a grand jury, according to testimony read Thursday in Lynn's child-endangerment trial.

Lynn, the longtime secretary for clergy for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia, is also charged with conspiracy for his handling of priest-abuse complaints.

The seminarian has testified that the priest, Stanley Gana, had sex with him throughout high school, and that he reported it to Lynn in 1992.

Lynn told a 2002 grand jury that Gana was not sent for a psychiatric evaluation until a 1995 complaint because the earlier case "fell through the cracks" when Lynn changed jobs.

Gana wasn't defrocked until 2006.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

More charges against former Ukrainian PM

Yulia Tymoshenko. Incarcerated opposition leader faces new tax-evasion charges as concerns arise about her health

Former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko was put on trial on new tax-evasion charges Thursday, despite widespread concern about her health as a prison inmate.

Tymoshenko, the country's top opposition leader, is already serving a seven-year prison term after being convicted of abuse of office in a case the West has condemned as politically motivated.

Prosecutors also have charged Tymoshenko with evading tens of millions of hryvna (several million dollars) in taxes while heading an energy company in the mid-1990s.

Former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko at trial in 2011.
SERGEI CHUZAVKOV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

She did not appear at the trial in the eastern city of Kharkiv on Thursday due to a severe back problem.

Tymoshenko denies all the charges against her and says they are part of a campaign by her longtime foe, President Viktor Yanukovych, to bar her from politics.

Yanukovych narrowly defeated her in 2010 presidential elections.

Meanwhile, concerns mounted over Tymoshenko's health and treatment.

Dr. Karl Max Einhaeupl of Berlin's Charite clinic, who has examined Tymoshenko, told the Russian state-owned newspaper that she was suffering from a herniated disk, was in intense pain and needed urgent treatment at a specialized medical facility.

Ukraine's government has offered to treat Tymoshenko at a hospital.

A Ukrainian court on Thursday sentenced a top ally of the jailed former PM to five years in prison for abuse of office.

A court in Kyiv found former acting Defense Minister Valery Ivashchenko guilty of abusing his office in the sell-off of a state shipbuilding plant.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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CANADIAN WOMEN'S FOUNDATION
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ROGERS
*All proceeds go to the Canadian Women's Foundation

Lighting a stairway to heaven

Exiled Tibetans descend a staircase during a candlelit vigil to mark two more reported self-immolations in Tibet, in Dharmsala, India, on Thursday. Thirty-two people have set themselves on fire in Tibetan areas over the past year to draw attention to China's restrictions on Buddhism and call for the return from exile of their spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama. ASHWINI BHATIA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Peace ends, bombings rock 10 cities in Iraq

Sectarian tensions. At least 30 dead, 117 wounded as bombs and mortar shells break a temporary peace in politically divided nation

Bombs ripped through 10 Iraqi cities Thursday, killing at least 30 people and shattering a month of relative calm. Minority lawmakers decried the violence as a tragic but inevitable result of the Shiite-led government's attempts to dominate Iraqi politics.

Despite simmering sectarian tensions, a lull in deadly attacks since mid-March led many to hope Iraq had turned a corner and away from widespread violence. That proved overly optimistic as at least 14 bombs and mortar shells exploded across 10 cities over three hours in the morning. At least 117 people were wounded, police said.

"What crime have we committed? How long will such violence continue?" wailed a woman, who would identify herself only by her nickname of Um Ali, after watching a car explode outside an apartment building in western Baghdad.

"This is security in Iraq," a man nearby muttered sarcastically as he inspected damage to his car.

Six of the bombings struck at security forces and government officials — frequent targets for insurgents.

In Baghdad alone, 12 people were killed, mostly in Shiite neighbourhoods. The other attacks hit northern Iraqi cities — from Samarra, where a 2006 mosque bombing touched off the worst of the insurgency, to the ethnically mixed city to Kirkuk, to Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but Baghdad military command spokesman Col. Dhia al-Wakeel said they resembled those carried out by al-Qaida, the Sunni Muslim terror network.

Sunni and Kurdish lawmakers said the bombings likely were the result of a months-long political impasse that has all but paralyzed Iraq's government since the U.S. military withdrawal at the end of last year.

They said ongoing bickering over a stalled power-sharing agreement with Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, a Shiite, has opened the door to violence.

Iraq's political chasm has pitted al-Maliki against the Sunni-dominated Iraqiya coalition, which won the most seats in 2010 parliamentary elections but was outmanoeuvred in back-room negotiating over the right to seat the government. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

An Iraqi policeman runs his metal detector over the coffin of Hussein Ahmed at a checkpoint as the body arrives for burial amid a sandstorm in the Shiite holy city of Najaf, south of Baghdad. ALAA AL-MARJANI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"May stir up ... hatred"

British police make arrests in posting racially inflammatory material to sites

British police arrested five men Thursday on suspicion of posting racially inflammatory material to social networking sites.

Police have seized computers, laptops and mobile phones from seven locations.

The cops said all five men were arrested "on suspicion of publishing or distributing written material which may stir up racial hatred."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Garanhuns, Brazil

Accused members of sect

The trio that allegedly killed at least two women and ate parts of their bodies may have murdered another five people in northeastern Brazil, police said Thursday.

The three allegedly lured women to their house by promising them a job as a nanny.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pollution activists march

Activists from Climate Rush make their way past the U.K. Houses of Parliament as part of a demonstration held against air pollution, in London, England on Thursday.

TIM HALES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sick fish found in Gulf of Mexico

Two years after the massive Gulf of Mexico oil spill, scientists say they are finding sick fish that dwell along offshore reefs and in the deep waters, especially in places where the oil spill hit the hardest.

The Deepwater Horizon rig exploded and sank two years ago.

It touched off the worst offshore spill in U.S. history.

The scientists are unsure what exactly is causing a small percentage of the fish they're catching to have large open sores and strange black streaks.

The biggest question is whether contaminants from the BP spill are causing the problems.

For now, scientists can't say for sure if the spill is the cause or if it's normal to find this number of sick fish.

The fish illnesses don't pose an increased health threat to humans, scientists say. However, they could be devastating to prized species and the people who make their living catching them.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fish bear hallmarks of diseases tied to petroleum and other pollutants.

COURTESY DONALD WATERS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pimp my missile?

A North Korean vehicle carrying a missile passes by during a mass military parade in Pyongyang's Kim Il Sung Square to celebrate the centenary of the birth of the late North Korean founder Kim Il Sung. The enormous, 16-wheel truck used to carry the missile likely came from China in a possible violation of UN sanctions meant to rein in Pyongyang's missile program. DAVID GUTTENFELDER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

India's launch of nuclear missile widely accepted

Nuclear. Response to India's rocket test shows acceptance of nuclear program

India's successful test of a powerful new missile that can carry nuclear weapons to Beijing caused barely a ripple — even in China — just days after North Korea was globally vilified for a failed rocket launch.

The vastly different responses show the world has grown to accept India as a responsible and stable nuclear power, while shunning North Korea as a pariah.

"It's not the spear, but who holds the spear that matters," said Rahul Bedi, a defence analyst in India. "North Korea is a condemned nation. It's a pariah country. Its record of breaking nuclear agreements is well known. India has emerged in that sense as a fairly responsible country."

India announced the launch of its Agni-V missile Thursday. INDIAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The muted response to Thursday morning's test underscores how far India has come in gaining acceptance for its nuclear program. After India tested its first nuclear bomb in 1974, the U.S. put it under sanctions for a quarter century.

But last decade, the U.S. removed the sanctions and ratified in 2008 a landmark deal to allow civilian nuclear trade that effectively accepted India as a nuclear nation.

India hailed its test of the Agni-V missile as a significant step forward in its aspirations to become a regional and world power.

"The nation stands tall today," Defence Minister A.K. Antony said, according to the Press Trust of India.

The missile, with a range of 5,000 kilometres, still requires a battery of tests and must clear other bureaucratic hurdles before it can be inducted into India's arsenal in a few years.

The condemnation of North Korea's rocket launch on the other hand was swift. The United States cancelled a plan to send food aid and the UN Security Council announced it would impose new sanctions.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Driver arrested with ammo made 'honest mistake': Boss

The boss of a truck driver caught with 268,000 rounds of ammunition in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, says his employee took a wrong turn on his way to deliver what he says was legal cargo bound for an Arizona dealer.

Dennis Mekenye, operations manager at Demco freight company in the Dallas suburb of Arlington, said Thursday that driver Jabin Bogan, 27, made "a very honest mistake" when he took a wrong turn that eventually led him to Mexico on Tuesday.

Mekenye says he's been in touch with U.S. law enforcement agencies and the U.S. consulate in Ciudad Juarez. "We want this solved, that is why we have been so forthcoming with authorities."

The truck's tracking unit showed that it had entered into Mexico and that is when Mekenye said he decided to call Bogan. "We do not go into Mexico, our company is not licensed to go into Mexico," Mekenye said. The driver told him over the phone that Mexican authorities had detained him and were going to inspect the cargo.

Mekenye said that Bogan informed him that after making two of his three stops in El Paso, Texas, he proceeded to drive to the third stop at company called Carefusion in El Paso before heading to Phoenix, where the ammunition was to be delivered. But he took a wrong turn and found himself at the Bridge of The Americas, unable to make a U-Turn.

Howard Glaser, owner of United Nations Ammunition in Phoenix, said the cargo was 18,000 units of 5.56 calibre bullets like those used for ar-15 assault rifles and 250,000 .308 calibre bullets. "They are saying these (the .308 rounds) are for AK-47 rifles but the brass casing is 12 millimeters longer, it will not fit in the chamber," said Glaser.

"They are making a big political issue out of this," said Glaser.

The federal prosecutor's office in northern Chihuahua state said Bogan is being held pending investigation on illegal weapons charges. Spokesman Angel Torres says the driver claimed he had no goods to declare.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Standoff

Cops arrest armed man in hospital after standoff

A man has been arrested and is undergoing a mental health assessment following a brief standoff between police and an armed man in a hospital waiting room in Iqaluit.

Police said the man carrying a rifle entered the Qikiqtani General Hospital shortly after noon Thursday.

"It's hard to tell right now exactly what the motive was," said RCMP Sgt. Kevin Lewis.

"We're not really sure why he chose to attend at the hospital. I don't really know what his demands were."

One wing of the hospital was evacuated. The 35-bed facility is the main hospital in Nunavut and serves the whole territory.

A police negotiator was able to defuse the situation peacefully, Lewis said. There was no indication the man was drunk or on drugs.

"It was strictly a mental health issue with him," said Lewis.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

C95 FM
NICKELBACK SECRET SONG
The Nickelback show on May 18th has all but sold out, with only single tickets remaining. Don't want to go on your own? Keep reading.....
Every day this week, pick up a copy of Metro News to find a clue to what the C95 Nickelback Secret Song is. When you think you know the answer, head to C95's Facebook page and "comment" on the Secret Song post.
Everyone who gets the answer right will be in a draw to win 2 tickets to the show!
Here's the second clue: HEY, HEY, I WANNA BE...
RAWLCO

Russian punk band arrested

Protest. Three female punk rockers play surprise performance at Moscow's Christ the Savior Cathedral in protest against Putin

Police arrested more than 20 demonstrators Thursday as a Moscow court considered extending the detention of three female punk rockers arrested after a surprise protest performance against Vladimir Putin.

Five members of the band Pussy Riot — wearing brightly colored homemade ski masks and miniskirts — briefly seized the pulpit of Moscow's Christ the Savior Cathedral — the country's main Orthodox church — in February and chanted "Mother Mary, drive Putin away" two weeks before Russia's presidential vote.

Putin, the prime minister, won a third presidential term in March's election despite a wave of massive protests against his rule.

The three women, Maria Alekhina, Nadezhda Tolokonnikova and Yekaterina Samutsevich, face up to seven years in jail on charges of hooliganism.

The Tagansky district court is considering whether to keep them in custody on a police request pending the probe.

Supporters of the band, including prominent artists, musicians and activists, organized a protest festival outside the court.

More than 100 people, including journalists, gathered in the courtyard, some carrying balloons and posters.

They chanted "Freedom!" when the women were taken into the court.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Protesting Putin

Orthodox activists also rallied, provoking Pussy Riot supporters and throwing eggs at bandmate Nadezhda Tolokonnikova's husband.

- **The Russian Orthodox Church says the women deserve to be prosecuted for their "blasphemous" performance at the cathedral, although thousands of believers have signed a petition urging the church to forgive the band.**
- **Attorneys for the arrested band members have argued the women should be released because they have young children**
- **Pussy Riot gained notoriety in January for performing a song addressed to Putin from a spot on Red Square.** Videos of the performance became an instant Internet hit.
- **Putin, the prime minister, won a third presidential term in March's election despite a wave of massive protests.**

Maria Alyokhina of Pussy Riot is escorted to a courtroom in Moscow, Russia, on Thursday. IVAN SEKRETAREV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Racist memorabilia meant to provoke thought

In a March 14, 2012 photo, David Pilgrim, the founder and curator who started building the Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia, adjusts a display at the museum in Big Rapids, Mich. CARLOS OSORIO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Steeped in racism

Museum of racism cringe-worthy

The objects displayed in the U.S. state of Michigan's newest museum range from the ordinary, such as simple ashtrays and fishing lures, to the grotesque — a full-size replica of a lynching tree.

But all are united by a common theme: They are steeped in racism so intense that it makes visitors cringe. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gut-wrenching

"There's parts in that room — the main room — where it's quite gut-wrenching. And the thought that was going through my mind was: 'How can one human being do this to another human being?'"

Nancy Mettlach, a student conduct specialist at Ferris State University

A display of colored items is seen at the Jim Crow Museum, which says it has amassed the nation's largest public collection of artifacts spanning the segregation era and beyond. CARLOS OSORIO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Think deeply

Museum meant to be thought provoking

Pilgrim, who is black, makes no apologies for the provocative exhibits.

The goal of the $1.3 million gallery, he explained, is "to get people to think deeply." The n-word is prevalent throughout, and many items portray black men as lazy, violent or inarticulate.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Long journey

2,000

Pilgrim, a former sociology professor at Ferris State, started the collection in the 1970s in Alabama. In 1996, Pilgrim donated his 2,000-piece collection to the school after concluding that it "needed a real home." The collection spent the next 15 years housed in a single room and could be seen only by appointment. Thanks to the financial support of the university and donors — including Detroit utility DTE Energy — Pilgrim's collection now has a permanent home, which will have a grand opening ceremony April 26.

Bugs begone

Starbucks to stop using dye derived from beetles

Starbucks says it will stop using a red dye in its drinks that is derived from crushed bugs.

The Seattle-based coffee chain said Thursday that it made the decision to reformulate its drinks after feedback from consumers.

The company says it will swap out cochineal extract, which is made from the juice of a tiny beetle, and instead use lycopene, a tomato-based extract. Starbucks had used the coloring in its strawberry flavoured mixed drinks and some red-hued snack items.

The company says the items will be reformulated by the end of June.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

International asset

CPP board acquires half of Chilean toll-road operator

The Canada Pension Plan Investment Board is committing $1.14 billion to acquire about half ownership in five major toll roads in Chile, part of its strategy of making long-term investments to support future benefit payments. The rest of the Chilean company will be owned by the Atlantia Group, an Italian toll company.

Grupo Costanera will be another addition to the fund manager's other infrastructure holdings, which were worth $8.6 billion as of Dec. 31.

However, the Chilean investment will represent a very small portion of the $152.8 billion of assets in the CPP Fund as of the end of last year.

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Market Minute

DOLLAR 100.48¢ (-0.4¢)

TSX 12,153.69 (+24.8)

OIL $102.27 US (-40¢)

GOLD $1,641.40 (+$1.80)

Natural gas: $1.907 (-4.4¢)
Dow Jones: 12,964.1 (-68.65)

Apple planning a smaller iPad?

Tech talk. Rumours of a forthcoming 'iPad Mini' persist after reports that Apple has ordered small screens from Samsung

Last year, Amazon figured out how to crack Apple's stranglehold on tablets by making a half-size tablet. The result was the Kindle Fire, pictured.

MARK LENNIHAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

There's a constantly spinning mill of rumours about Apple products, most of which turn out to be untrue. What's unusual this week is that talk has revived of a smaller iPad model, an idea company founder Steve Jobs derided before he died.

Apple and its suppliers aren't commenting. Rumours of a smaller iPad, or "iPad mini" have percolated ever since the first iPad was launched two years ago. This time around, they're fed by media reports from South Korea, China and Taiwan, saying Apple has ordered Samsung screens that are 7.86 inches measured on the diagonal. That would make for a screen about half the size of the current iPad.

A smaller tablet would help Apple further its lead in the tablet market. Apple has successfully fended off competitors who have tried to sell tablets in iPad's size range. But last year, Amazon.com figured out how to crack Apple's stranglehold on tablets by making a half-size, no-frills tablet. The result was the Kindle Fire, which sells for $199 -basically, the cost of production. Amazon has sold millions of them.

Apple sells the iPod Touch for $199, but its screen is about a quarter of the size of the Kindle Fire — a big disadvantage for people who want to enjoy books, movies and games. It also sells the older iPad model for $399. It has nothing in between.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Social media

Twitter swears off patent wars

Some high-profile tech sector entrepreneurs are rallying behind a new Twitter policy that will see the micro-blogging service refrain from using patents to launch pre-emptive legal strikes against rivals.

Twitter announced a draft policy it calls the Innovator's Patent Agreement that includes a vow not to sue for patent infringement unless it is defensive and the original developer gives permission.

Along with empowering Twitter's engineering and design staff, the policy is aimed at curbing the wave of patent lawsuits sweeping across the tech sector.

Twitter posted the agreement, to be implemented later this year, on an open-source developers' site soliciting comments from tech companies and says it is encouraging firms to "join the flock."

The policy represents a significant departure from the current state of affairs in the industry, Twitter says. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Rupert and James Murdoch to testify at media ethics inquiry

Rupert Murdoch and his son James will testify before Britain's media ethics inquiry next week, officials said, as police announced the arrest of a man identified as the royal editor of Murdoch's scandal-tarred The Sun newspaper.

The Murdochs have been at the hub of the scandal over wrongdoing at their News Corp. media empire and the pair can expect fresh questions about what they knew and when they knew it.

Father and son previously gave a dramatic testimony before Parliament last year, but much more information has since spilled out into the public domain, including evidence that senior executives at News International, the company's U.K. newspaper arm, spearheaded an ambitious cover up involving the deletion of incriminating emails.

James Murdoch

MIGUEL VILLAGRAN/GETTY IMAGES

The inquiry led by Lord Justice Brian Leveson said Thursday that Rupert Murdoch will appear on Wednesday and possibly the day after. His son, James is expected to appear Tuesday.

While Rupert Murdoch has remained largely insulated from the crisis, several of his lieutenants have resigned and the scandal has tarnished his son's credibility over what went on while he was in charge at News International.

Since the scandal boiled over, James Murdoch has resigned from News International and stepped down as chairman of satellite broadcaster British Sky Broadcasting, moves that many observers saw as an effort to distance himself from the crisis.

Meanwhile at least 25 past and present employees of News International have been arrested in the police investigations of phone hacking, bribery and computer hacking.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pipeline. New Keystone route would skirt aquifer

TransCanada has come up with a new route for the controversial Keystone XL pipeline, one that would skirt a crucial aquifer in Nebraska in an attempt to allay White House concerns about the environmental impact of the $7 billion project.

Company officials unveiled the new route on Thursday in Nebraska, submitting it to state officials for review.

The modified route would sweep around the state's environmentally fragile Sandhills region before joining up with the original proposed path of the pipeline.

Calgary-based TransCanada submitted the new proposed route after the Obama administration rejected its original proposal earlier this year when congressional Republicans tried to force U.S. President Barack Obama into a speedy approval.

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RAWLCO RADIO

HOUSE OF TRUMP CARDS FALLS

THE LIST
Mike Benhaim
Metro

1 **House of Trump cards:** With regard to a glass window that fell from Toronto's new Trump Tower, Donald Jr. calmly stated, "If you know anything about construction, that kind of thing just happens." So, you see folks, there's no reason to overreact. This man knows construction, and if he says that a large shard of glass falling 65 storeys onto one of the busiest streets in Toronto is no biggie, I, for one, feel better.

2 **Sport of kings:** The king of Spain's 13-year-old grandson has literally shot himself in the foot. Felipe Juan Froilan, was spending "quality time" with dad and a 36-calibre shotgun when the accident occurred.

The eldest royal grandchild, well-known to Spanish media as just "Froilan," will henceforth be referred to as "Hijo del Tonto," or in English, "Son of that really dumb guy."

3 **Hello, Goodbye:** Tickets for this summer's Garth Brooks show at the Calgary Stampede sold out in 58 seconds. Fans were outraged to find that some of the 15,322 tickets were available on "scalper" sites.

The stampede's publicity manager, Jennifer Booth, says tickets were available only through online and phone services, with no pre-sales or fan-club purchases, and a limit of six per person, providing yet another example of a job that doesn't require math.

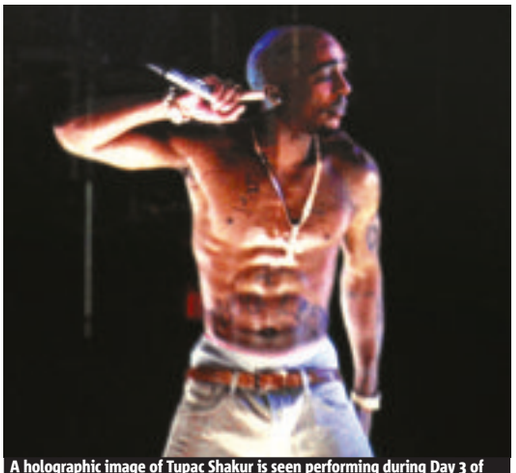
4 **Surprise! No prize:** The Pulitzers were awarded this week for the usual categories like history, biography and non-fiction, but for the first time in 35 years, there was no prize for fiction. The judges did not explain their decision but I'm guessing it's because there's enough fiction in those other categories already.

5 **Race relations:** Mel Gibson is under fire once again for comments made on the set of his film about legendary Jewish hero, Judah Maccabee.

Gibson stated that he resents being reduced to the label of "anti-semite," when he sees himself as a broader, equal-opportunity racist.

6 **Live from the dead:** Fans were surprised, and a little freaked out when Tupac Shakur hit the stage at the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival last week. A digital effects firm from California added mirrors to a CGI image of the late rap legend, creating the illusion that he was actually performing. Now, Snoop Dogg and Dr. Dre want to take him on tour. In fact, they prefer this Tupac as he incurs no travel costs or legal fees, and will not smoke any of their weed.

7 **She's got talent:** CGT judge, Measha Brueggergosman has released a new album on which she strays slightly from her operatic roots. Online sales of her last album dwindled slightly because frankly, her name's too hard to spell, but I think she is gifted enough to join Madonna and Cher in the ranks of the mononymous. So join me in the campaign to rename one of our nation's treasures. Just "Measha." It works.



A holographic image of Tupac Shakur is seen performing during Day 3 of the 2012 Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival at the Empire Polo Field on April 15 in Indio, Calif. KEVIN WINTER/GETTY IMAGES

Hanging on the edge (of a rock face)

ALEX MESSENGER/SOLENT NEWS & PHOTO AGENCY

Cliff hanger

This is life, up against a wall

MAKAPANSGAT, SOUTH AFRICA. He is teetering on the edge of the cliff face, but British climber John Roberts is safe thanks to his trusty rope. This stunning image by seasoned climbing photographer Alex Messenger sees Roberts, 27, from Manchester, standing 100 metres above the African bush below.

METRO

Aerial shooter

"I try to convey the emotion of climbing in my shots and hope to make the viewer feel a little of what it's like to be up there."

Alex Messenger
Photographer that specializes in climbing

60 seconds

John Roberts

How did you manage to get stuck up there?

I was abseiling from the top of this cliff face in Makapansgat, a paleontological limestone site in South Africa where important prehistoric fossils of man have been discovered. I stopped about halfway down to pose for the camera.

In situations when you slip, should you try to cling onto the rock face?

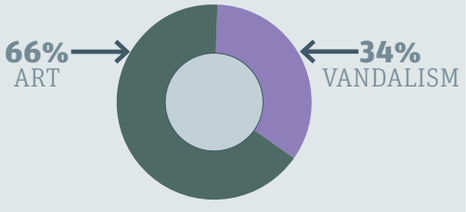
No, it's better if you just hang there for the moment and let the rope do the work for you.

ANTHONY JOHNSTON/METRO

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Graffiti — art or vandalism?



Twitter

@karicalder: Awesome location for this updated condo,steps from Broadway!

@MarkHorseman: I'm working very hard on some fantastic campaign planks for the Civic Election in October. Stay Tuned :-) #yxe #yxecc

@LynnRedl: Prarie climate change: "Instead of 50-100 native plants in our grasslands, we'll have 1 invasive plant" says Dr. Jeff Thorpe

@LeafsNation55: @SaskHockeyFan23I wish last game I saw was pats and blades when Schenn played for Saskatoon

@Davidkirtonckom: Congratulations RANDY Pshebylo. He's done so much for Riversdale. Gets a badge award from YXE police 2nite. Now the Sherrif of Riversdale

metro

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Avatar is one of many memorable films that pack an environmental punch. HANDOUT

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN

The green machine

Earth Day. The Reel Guys take a look at Hollywood's attempts to educate us about the environment

Richard: Mark, the Disney-nature docs are great movies, but I think I'll kick off our look at Earth Day with an animated movie that packs just as much punch as An Inconvenient Truth and is twice as entertaining. Wall-E is a Pixar movie about a garbage-collecting robot on Earth, a planet made unlivable by waste and pollution. It's a funny, poignant masterpiece and perfect for the whole family on April 22.

Mark: Wall-E is certainly a masterpiece. But what about Avatar? There's a film with a strong environmental message. Of course, you can only wonder how big of a carbon footprint is made from a $200 million movie. But the strangest irony, Richard, might be the two of us discussing environmentally friendly flicks when we spend most of our time in darkened rooms!

RC: That's the way I like it; inside looking out. I save a fortune on sun block as well. Continuing our theme, I thought of some good Earth Day thrillers. Everyone remembers Julia Roberts as Erin Brockovich, a legal assistant who uncovers some grave environmental wrongdoing, but how about Frogs? This eco-terror film is about frogs who get revenge on polluters. Or The Day After Tomorrow, Dennis Quaid's ode to climate change?

Synopsis

Each year on Earth Day Disneynature does their part to increase awareness and build an appreciation of our planet's natural environment by releasing documentaries. This year, it's Chimpanzee. These spectacularly photographed movies show us the world in ways we have never seen before. This week the Reel Guys have a look at other movies that celebrate and comment on Earth Day.

MB: Now there's a movie serious environmentalists never bring up. Too exciting, I suppose. But what about the granddaddy of eco-catastrophe, The China Syndrome? Made in 1977, it's as relevant today on the anti-nuke issue as it was then. And it stars Jane Fonda in her smokin'-hot-but-with-a-conscience period. Or Silkwood, also about nuclear contamination, starring Cher in her smokin'-hot-but-you'd-never-know-it-in-those-outfits period.

RC: You know another movie serious environmentalists don't ever watch? Bio-Dome. Back when people went to Paulie Shore movies he made this movie about an environmental experiment, predating Al Gore's global warming message by years. Could Shore be an Earth Day pioneer?

MB: Maybe! He's definitely a pioneer of the word "dude." But when you think about it, environmental themes are everywhere. Aren't zombie films really about sustainability? And aren't cannibal movies about the importance of eating fresh, and locally?

2

SCENE

Scene in brief

Ben Mulroney goes Live! again

Ben Mulroney is set to co-host Live! with Kelly again, this time south of the border. The CTV eTalk co-anchor will join Kelly Ripa on her syndicated morning talk show in New York City on May 4, a month after he shared the stage with her during a taping in Banff, Alta. CTV, which airs Live! with Kelly in Canada, says the Banff episode featuring Mulroney as co-host garnered the show's highest audience ever in Canada, with 685,000 viewers. The guest on the May 4 episode will be Canadian Castle star Nathan Fillion.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

Stung by past failures, Hollywood is slowly warming to China's new embrace

Speedflirt

Introducing Speedflirt, a flirty new app for meeting singles in your city looking for love or friendship.
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Documentary

Chimpanzee

Directors. Alastair Fothergill, Mark Linfield

Stars. Tim Allen

Led by Tim Allen as narrator, the Disneynature documentary Chimpanzee aims to entertain young audiences with a watered-down examination of the daily life of little orphaned ape Oscar. While the footage is certainly striking, the softened story is unfortunately less telling than the behind-the-scenes outtakes played over the end credits.

STEVE GOW

Drama

The Lucky One

Director. Scott Hicks

Stars. Zac Efron, Taylor Schilling

No amount of bicep curls will ever turn Zac Efron into a master thespian. And while the star carries a generic, albeit beefed-up, presence as a soldier tracking down the girl from a discarded photo he found overseas, the sheer melodrama of the premise only underscores Efron's banality. Based on Nicholas Sparks's book, The Lucky One is pure romantic wish-fulfillment that's as easily digested as it is forgotten.

STEVE GOW

Batmobile builder gets in driver's seat in cancer fight

Fundraiser. B.C. man brings Batman's ride to Burnaby to help raise money for cancer research

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
scene@metronews.ca

Andy Smith, the designer and builder of the Batmobile Tumbler featured in the Dark Knight Rises, shows off the caped crusader's wheels Tuesday at the Electronic Arts studios in Burnaby. PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS

With the help of a B.C. man., Batman will be cruising along Gotham and fighting the bad guys in style.

Deep Cove resident Andy Smith, the designer and builder of the newest Batmobile, showed off the caped crusader's hot wheels at the Electronic Arts studios in Burnaby to help raise money for cancer research earlier this week.

Smith said the Batmobile Tumbler was driven up from California on a flatbed truck uncovered and caused quite a commotion as it passed through the border.

Smith, along with a team of engineers, created the Batmobiles that were used for Batman Begins, The Dark Knight and the soon-to-be-released The Dark Knight Rises.

"Three years ago, I had my run-in with cancer," Smith said. "I was diagnosed and the cancer agency fixed me. I thought now I've got a chance to give something back."

He said bringing the Batmobile is his way of giving thanks to the doctors and the B.C. Cancer Agency who helped him during his fight with the disease.

"You're fit and healthy and life is rocking along and then the rug gets pulled out from underneath you and everything stops," he said. "I consider myself extremely lucky … (and now) I'm at the other side. I've been clear for three years."

Batman fans who donated to the B.C. Cancer Foundation scored a chance to see the Batmobile up close at the Electronic Arts studios in Burnaby.

Smith said director Christopher Nolan likes to have realism in his films so he and his team build the Tumbler from scratch. It goes more than 175 kilometres per hour and is powered by a 350 Chevy engine.

"It does everything you see it do," he added. "We jumped it over the freeway. We blew it up in midair and it still drove back. We've driven it over police cars and thumped it through concrete walls."

The Batmobile Tumbler will hit movie screens this summer in The Dark Knight Rises.

Cannes it get any better than this?

Pattinson, LaBeouf, Efron and Pitt?
The festival is going to be even hotter than usual this year

The lineup of the 65th Cannes Film Festival was announced Thursday, with critics watching closely. Last year's crop yielded future Oscar winners The Artist and Tree of Life.

This year's features....

Amour
Master of tension, manipulation and mutilation, Austrian Palme d'Or winner Michael Haneke returns with a tale of elderly music teachers (Jean-Louis Trintignant and Emmanuelle Riva) who suffer when the wife has a stroke. Things probably don't get better when their daughter (Isabelle Huppert) visits.

Cosmopolis
A millionaire (Pattinson) has issues in Manhattan, and we're supposed to care about him why? Because this is from writer Don DeLillo and directed by David Cronenberg, that's why.

Killing Them Softly
Formerly known as Cogan's Trade, this heist film reteams Pitt with director Andrew Dominik, of Jesse James fame. Professional mobsters James Gandolfini and Ray Liotta costar.

Lawless
It's the Depression era, and bootlegger brothers (Tom Hardy, Shia LaBeouf) have a hard time at it, in this from The Road director John Hillcoat.

Moonrise Kingdom
Wes Anderson heads to a 1960s summer camp for his latest twee tale, starring Bruce Willis, Bill Murray, Tilda Swinton, Edward Norton, Frances McDormand and everyone else cool in the world.

On the Road
Jack Kerouac's classic finally (regretfully?) gets a movie version, this directed by The Motorcycle Diaries filmmaker Walter Salles.

The Paperboy
By far the biggest wild card here, this is an erotic thriller starring Zac Efron and Nicole Kidman, from Lee Daniels, the director of the not-erotic Precious.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Brad Pitt stars in Killing Them Softly. KILLINGTHEMSOFTLY.COM

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., APRIL 20 TO THURS., APRIL 26. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

Broadway Theatre
715 Broadway Ave., 306-652-6556

The Artist (G) Fri 9 Sat 7 Sun 9 Mon 7 Thu 9
Moon Point (STC) Fri 7 Sat 9 Sun 7 Mon 9 Thu 7
No Films Showing Today (STC) Tue-Wed

Cineplex Odeon Centre
3510 8th St. East, 306-955-1938

21 Jump Street (14A) Fri 7:10-9:50 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:30-7:10-9:50 Mon-Wed 5:20-8 Thu 1:20-5:20-8
American Reunion (18A) Fri 7:30-10:10 Sat 12:40-3:20-7:30-10:10 Sun 12:40-3:20-7:30-10:05 Mon-Thu 5:40-8:15 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Dr. Seuss' the Lorax (G) Sat-Sun 1:20-4 Thu 1:20
The Hunger Games (PG) Fri 6:50-10 Sat-Sun 12:20-3:40-6:50-10 Mon-Wed 4:50-8 Thu 1:10-4:50-8
Mirror Mirror (PG) Fri 6:40-9:20 Sat-Sun 1-3:50-6:40-9:20 Mon-Thu 5-7:40
The Three Stooges (PG) Fri 7:20-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:10-3:50-7:20-9:40 Mon-Thu 5:30-7:50 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
The Vow (PG) Fri-Sun 7-9:30 Mon-Thu 5:10-7:40

The Cabin in the Woods. HANDOUT

Wrath of the Titans 3D (14A) Fri 7-9:30 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:10-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 5:10-7:40

Galaxy Cinemas Saskatoon
347 2nd Ave. South, 306-664-5060

21 Jump Street (14A) Fri 4:30-7:15-10:05 Sat-Sun 1:45-4:30-7:15-10:05 Mon-Thu 7:20-10:05
American Reunion (18A) Fri 4:40-7:20-10:15 Sat 11:30-2-4:40-7:20-10:15 Sun 2-4:40-7:20-10:15 Mon-Wed 7:30-10:15 Thu 7:25-10:15
Andrew Lloyd Webber's Love Never Dies (PG) Sat 12:45
Babe (STC) Sat 11
Breakfast at Tiffany's (G) Sun 1
The Cabin in the Woods (18A) Fri 5:15-7:40-10:05 Sat-Sun 12:40-2:55-5:15-7:40-10:05 Mon-Thu 7:40-10:05
Chimpanzee (G) No Passes Fri 5:10-7:25-9:35 No Passes Sat 11-1-3:10-5:10-7:25-9:35 No Passes Sun 1-3:05-5:10-7:25-9:35 No Passes Mon-Thu 7:25-9:30
Dr. Seuss' the Lorax 3D (G) Fri 5:50-8:10-10:25 Sat 11-1:05-3:30-5:50-8:10-10:25 Sun 1:05-3:30-5:50-8:10-10:25 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:30
The Hunger Games (PG) Fri-Sun 10:20 Mon-Thu 9:35 Fri 4:10-7:30-10:30 Sat-Sun 1-4:10-7:30-10:30 Mon-Thu 7:15-10:25
Lockout (14A) Fri-Sat 5:05-7:35-9:55 Sun 12:25-2:45-5:05-7:35-9:55 Mon-Wed 7:05-9:40 Thu 10
The Lucky One (PG) No Passes Fri 5:20-7:45-10:10 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:30-2:50-5:20-7:45-10:10 No Passes Mon-Thu 7:50-10:20
Mirror Mirror (PG) Fri 5:10-7:45 Sat 12-2:35-5:10-7:45 Sun 5:10-7:45 Mon-Thu 7
One Man, Two Guvnors - Encore Presentation (STC) Thu 6:45
The Three Stooges (PG) Fri 5:30-7:50-10:15 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:10-5:30-7:50-10:15 Mon-Thu 7-9:45
Titanic 3D (14A) Fri 4:45-8:45 Sat-Sun 12:45-4:45-8:45 Mon-Thu 8
Wrath of the Titans 3D (14A) Fri 5:30-8:05-10:35 Sat 12:30-3-5:30-8:05-10:35 Sun 12:30-3:05-5:30-8:05-10:35 Mon-Thu 7:35-9:55

Roxy Theatre
320 20th St West, 306-955-8642

Environmental Film Festival (STC) Fri-Sun
In Darkness (14A) Fri 7 Sat-Sun 1-7 Mon-Thu 7:30
Mirza: The Untold Story (14A) Sun 7:30
The Raid: Redemption (18A) Fri 9:30 Sat-Sun 3:30-9:30 Mon-Thu 7-9:30

Rainbow Cinemas Saskatoon
The Centre at Circle & 8th, 306-955-8642

Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chip-wrecked (G) Sat-Sun 1:15-3:15
Journey 2: The Mysterious Island (G) Fri-Sat 1:05-3:20-7-9:15 Sun 1:05-3:20-7 Mon 3:20-7 Tue 1:05-3:20-7-9:15
Project X (18A) Fri-Sat 3:30-9:25 Sun-Mon 3:30 Tue 3:30-9:25 Wed-Thu 3:30
Rampart (14A) Fri-Sat 1-3:25-7:15-9:35 Sun 1-3:25-7:15 Mon 3:25-7:15 Tue 1-3:25-7:15-9:35 Wed-Thu 3:25-7:15
Safe House (PG) Fri-Sat 1:20-3:45-7:20-9:40 Sun 1:20-3:45-7:20 Mon 3:45-7:20 Tue 1:20-3:45-7:20-9:40 Wed-Thu 3:45-7:20
A Thousand Words (PG) Fri-Sat 1:15-3:15-7:25-9:30 Sun 7:25 Mon 3:15-7:25 Tue 1:15-3:15-7:25-9:30 Wed-Thu 3:15-7:25
The Vow (PG) Fri-Sun 1:10-7:10 Mon 7:10 Tue 1:10-7:10 Wed 7:10
Wanderlust (14A) Fri-Sat 1:25-3:35-7:05-9:20 Sun 1:25-3:35-7:05 Mon 3:35-7:05 Tue 1:25-3:35-7:05-9:20 Wed-Thu 3:35-7:05

Jason Statham. Actor gets tough with dinner plates in his new film

Not every actor can convincingly take out an enemy with a dinner plate, but British actor Jason Statham is a man of many talents. In his new film, Safe, he takes on New York City' Triads, Russian mafia and even corrupt cops. We talked to Statham about his life as an action hero.

Jason Statham stars as tough guy Luke Wright in Safe, which opens next Friday. HANDOUT

Your movies are very physical. Do you have the same training routine for every film?
The fighting styles vary. They base it on what kind of skills the character has and how we can justify them. I suppose they always want to do something a bit different and it has to be a kind of spectacle in some way. This time it was picking up plates. I don't design the fights but I have my own say, if it's too ridiculous, although what is too ridiculous these days in action movies?

Would you ever challenge yourself by not playing an action hero?
That's like asking Hugh Grant if he wants to do what I do. You've got to match man with material. I feel that I'm better at this than I would be at playing a lawyer. Everyone's got a strength [and] maybe you should stick with that.

Does it get easier playing similar sorts of characters?
It's never comfortable, you have to make a convincing job of the character. It's not like you can just turn up and it just happens. You still have to emote a little bit. You have to try to put yourself in there. It depends at what level that emotion is and that's based on the writing and (the direction). So the fact that Lee Christmas (The Expendables) can beat five guys up and so can Frank Martin (The Transporter), doesn't make them the same... They've got a certain skill-set that will make you think on the surface that they're the same person, but they're not. One's called Frank, one's called Lee.

What was it like working with Hollywood's biggest action actors on The Expendables?
It was a great day for me; I kept the call sheet because I was a part of the biggest names in action movies of the last God knows how many years. I was in great company. Sylvester Stallone is someone I have such high regard for; he's a real inspiration. To be under the wing of that man is a privilege.

Do you still do your own stunts?
Yes, I'm still stupid. I'm still getting my money's worth. I like doing it.

EMMA E. FORREST, METRO WORLD NEWS IN LONDON

Alison Brie shares her tricks for being Blunt

The Five-Year Engagement. Actress had to 'stalk' Emily Blunt to learn her mannerisms, speaking patterns for the role of Blunt's sister

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Alison Brie, familiar to fans of TV's Community and Mad Men, has been asked to do a lot of things before as an actress, but never to play British. And in the Five-Year Engagement, the request was a bit more specific than just play British: She had to be believable as Emily Blunt's sister. So, to prepare, Brie immersed herself in Blunt, watching everything she'd done, listening to tapes of her speaking, following her around all day — stalking, basically. Anything to nail a part, right?

Did shadowing Emily so much to get the voice right ever get weird?
It looked like I was Single White Female-ing her a lot of the time (laughs). If someone had taken a picture from across the room, it would've been weird — like her just laughing and talking, and me next to her just (staring intently), whispering what she was saying. But it didn't get weird, no. Not with Emily. Sometimes when we'd all be out, she'd have me do it. "She does a great me!" I was like, "Great..."

TV updates

Alison Brie also has plenty of small screen work, appearing on the critically acclaimed Mad Men, which just launched its fifth season, and Community, which despite its extremely loyal — if small — fan-base is in danger of cancellation.

Were there moments when you'd say something and she'd ask, "Do I really sound like that?"
No, no. I think she'd more correct me, like, "I don't sound like that."

You have a standout scene toasting the happy couple — and weeping uncontrollably. How much of that was improvised?
It was very collaborative. I remember we got to set that day, and (director) Nick Stoller came up and he was like, "You know, we're not totally sold with what we have in the script for this, so whatever ideas you have, we'll all just kind of work on it today." So there's definitely a lot of different versions of that. There's one with me dancing, doing the robot. It always involved me crying and sort of not being able to get through crying. Nick was like, "What other ways... try to make yourself stop crying!" And apparently the way that I make myself stop crying is talking in a creepy, low voice. Good to know about myself!

Alison Brie stars in The Five-Year Engagement, which opens next Friday. HANDOUT

The supporting cast is full of NBC sitcom actors, like Chris Pratt, Mindy Kaling and Chris Parnell. Plus Emily is married to John Krasinski from The Office. Did you all ever gang up on Jason Segel, since his show is on CBS?
No! No, not at all. I think it was a ploy on his part, he kept us pretty spaced out. I didn't have any scenes with Mindy. They didn't have us all together to gang up on him. He kept us apart so we couldn't.

A move to the 'burbs?

Though they've only been dating six months, Blake Lively and Ryan Reynolds are reportedly ready to settle down in the suburbs, according to Us Weekly.

The two actors "have been looking around different areas of Connecticut," a source claims, citing a recent trip the pair took to the posh suburb of New Canaan to sightsee.

"They love getting out of the city and appreciate a slower pace." Another source says that moving in together is the next logical step, given how close they've become. "Ryan is practically living with her already," the source says. "When he's at her apartment, it feels like home."

Carey Mulligan

Carey Mulligan set to tie the knot: Report

Carey Mulligan and musician Marcus Mumford are reportedly getting married this weekend during a ceremony in the English countryside, according to Radar Online. "Carey and Marcus are counting down the days till they tie the knot. She is absolutely walking on air and can hardly contain her excitement," a source says. "They don't care that some of their friends think they are rushing things." The couple have been engaged for nine months and dating for about a year, though they first got to know each other as pen pals when they were teenagers. "It's going to be an amazing weekend as they will be surrounded by their closest family and friends," the source says.

"It's a dream come true for Carey."

Madge needs to be a stricter mom

Madonna admits she may need to enforce some stricter parenting measures at home after a photo was published of 15-year-old daughter Lourdes smoking a cigarette.

"I think I need to be, maybe, tougher," she says during an interview with The Today Show. "I'm probably not as tough as I should be."

It probably doesn't help that Madonna herself is seen smoking in her latest music video, but she insists that's just a prop and that she is not a smoker.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Vanessa Lachey on pregnancy, Nick

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Vanessa Lachey is a very dutiful pregnant woman, saying she's "only gotten better" as she's entered her second trimester.

Really? She doesn't miss, say, scotch?

"Honestly, when people have drinks around me, the smell makes me want to vomit. I haven't even missed coffee too much. I feel like you are giving up these things for a great reason," she told us about her pregnancy while promoting Take a Load Off day on behalf of P&G Future Friendly and Tide Coldwater, which is encouraging the public to only wash their clothing in cold water this Earth Day to save on energy costs.

However, this very pregnant lady called shenanigans on Mrs. Lachey, as, come on, there has to be one complaint. (Vomiting? Swollen ankles? Give us something here, Vanessa!). And only after a little badgering from yours truly did she fess up to one complaint.

"Fatigue hit me hard," she finally admitted. "Sometimes I'll hit the couch for two or three hours and feel like I have to apologize to Nick, like: 'I'm sorry I'm so lazy!'"

Vanessa Lachey is a better pregnant lady than I. Two hours on the couch is my exercise for the day — but it only counts as exercise if I keep my eyes open the entire time.

Michael Jackson ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Is the bodyguard the real father to Blanket?

Michael Jackson's former bodyguard, Matt Fiddes, claims the late singer's youngest child is actually his biological son — and he's willing to prove it.

Fiddes says Jackson even told him the truth after baby Blanket was born.

"I sat there and asked the question, 'Is Blanket my child?'" Fiddes tells the Daily Star. "He said, 'He's my child, Matt, but I used your sperm to produce him.'"

Standing in his way, though, is Michael's mother, Katherine Jackson, who has sole custody of the child.

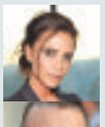
"Katherine's worried we will come after the estate and will tell the kids the truth," Fiddes says. "But to me the truth is the big issue, and that's why I want to take it further. I'm a self-made man, I don't want or need their money. All I want is access if he's my child, to take him out, and spend some time together."

A romantic getaway for Brad and Angie

Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie know how to celebrate a happy occasion. The newly engaged couple reportedly packed up their family and took a private jet to Ecuador, then a luxury yacht to the Galapagos Islands, where they're vacationing at the Royal Palm Hotel, according to People magazine.

"We were informed that they arrived at the airport in Baltra yesterday," a source says. "Then they made their way over to a villa in the Galapagos Islands." Pitt apparently popped the question during Christmas after spending a year working on the design of the engagement ring.

Twitter



@victoriabeckham
On route to China!!!! Excited!!!!

@TheRealNimoy
So many people discovering the original Star Trek series. Warms my Vulcan heart.

@SarahKSilverman
Couple thoughts: genocide is happening in Sudan & I'm tired lately.

@SteveMartinToGo
Home now, relaxing by the window, looking up "defenestration."

Liquid Assets

What's beef without the perfect wine?

LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
peterrockwell@eastlink.ca

Hamburgers seem to be making a comeback, and I'm not talking about the fast food variety.

The gourmet burger scene is red hot with the population of ultra premium joints exploding across the country.

What differentiates them from the average patty flipper is the originality of their output (Kobe beef anyone?) and the, ahem, higher prices.

My home versions are a tad more pedestrian. Even I can make a decent attempt from scratch, and the surprisingly pleasant weather has got me firing up the barbecue earlier than usual.

Some might argue that wasting anything above a simple table wine on a hamburger is just shy of sacrilegious. With most of us lathering our meat with cheese and a cornucopia of condiments; the flavour profile of a standard backyard creation is anything but typical.

A mid-priced merlot is a classic grilling mate with California's Woodbridge 2010 Merlot ($12.95 - $14.99) a ripe, relaxed red offering up plum and black berry fruit with soft tannins that will prove accommodating no matter what you put between your buns. **PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.**

This recipe makes six servings. THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

Fast-food-inspired beef bites for all tastes

Cheeseburger Mini Meat Loaves. Kids will love the flavour and adults will love how quickly they can be prepared for dinner

The fast-food flavours of this recipe will whet any kid's palate, and adults will appreciate how fast the mini loaves cook compared to regular meat loaf.

For a wholesome meal that is ready when you are, make them ahead and freeze some mini meat loaves.

Wrap each cooled meat loaf separately in plastic wrap or foil, then freeze for up to three months.

When you're ready to serve then, thaw the meat and heat them in the microwave in just minutes.

1. In bowl, combine beef, egg, 125 ml (1/2 cup) of the cheese, onion, breadcrumbs, relish, mustard, salt and pepper. Mix lightly but thoroughly to blend.

2. Lightly spray 12 muffin or custard cups with cooking spray. Divide beef mixture among cups; make indentation in centre of each with the back of a spoon.

3. Fill each with ketchup, dividing amount evenly among cups. Sprinkle each with remaining cheese, dividing equally.

4. Bake in a 190 C (375 F) oven for 25 to 30 minutes or until a digital rapid-read thermometer inserted into meat portion of each reads 71 C (160 F). **THE CANADIAN PRESS/ CANADA BEEF, BEEFINFO.ORG/ THIS RECIPE WAS ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS, FOR METRO ENGLISH CANADA. EMILY IS A PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE, VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA**

Ingredients

- 750 g (1 1/2 lb) extra lean or lean ground round, chuck or sirloin
- 1 egg, beaten
- 250 ml (1 cup) shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 small finely shredded onion
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) dry breadcrumbs
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) each burger relish and prepared mustard
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) each salt and pepper
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) ketchup

Asian Meatballs. Serve these yummy eats with a crunchy Speedy Slaw

This recipe makes seven servings. THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

1. In a bowl, lightly combine beef, wheat germ, onions, soy sauce, ginger root, egg and pepper. Gently form into about 30 meatballs (each about 2.5 cm/1 inch in diameter).

2. Bake on a lightly oiled, foil-lined baking tray in a 200 C (400 F) oven for 10 to 15 minutes or until a digital rapid-read thermometer inserted into centre of several meatballs reads 71 C (160 F).

3. Thread 3 meatballs on each skewer and serve with slaw.

Ingredients

- 500 g (1 lb) lean/extra lean ground beef sirloin
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) wheat germ
- 2 green onions, thinly sliced
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) sodium reduced soy sauce
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) finely grated fresh ginger
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) pepper

Speedy Slaw

- 50 ml (1/4 cup) rice vinegar
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) granulated sugar
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) vegetable oil
- 7 ml (1 1/2 tsp) Dijon mustard
- 5 ml (1 tsp) sesame oil
- Half a bag (454-ml/16-oz size) coleslaw salad mix
- 1 green onion, sliced
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) snow peas, halved lengthwise
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) canned sliced water chestnuts (drained and halved)
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) roasted shelled peanuts

4. Speedy Slaw: In a bowl, whisk together vinegar, sugar, vegetable oil, Dijon and sesame oil. Toss with salad mix, green onion, snow peas, water chestnuts and peanuts. **THE CANADIAN PRESS/ CANADA BEEF, BEEFINFO.ORG/ ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS (FOR MORE, PLEASE VISIT EMILY'S SITE EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA)**

3 LIFE

Superfood

Tamarind

Tamarind pulp is eaten to promote good digestion and is a high source of fibre. It contains high levels of vitamin C for a strong immune system, helping ward off colds and suppressing fever.

The fruit pulp is also a great source of antioxidants, a natural defence against cancer.

Further more, it's a great way of getting more potassium and magnesium in your system.

ROMINA MCGUINESS/ METRO WORLD NEWS

On the web

Cook fiddleheads properly to avoid illness: Health Canada

KEEN BEING GREEN

SHOPPING CHOICES ARE A GOOD WAY TO SEND A MESSAGE

ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

Pro-sumers are the new environmentally friendly consumer, says Keith Treffry, director of communications, Earth Day Canada.

Treffry defines a "pro-sumer" as someone who is environmentally proactive and aware when they shop.

"The goal is to make informed decisions and to purchase items that have the least impact on the environment — if a purchase is made at all."

Here are the types of questions pro-sumers ask when weighing their buying decisions.

• Do I need this or just want it? "Err more on the side of really needing things instead of just wanting things," says Treffry.

• Can I make do with what I already have at home? While resisting peer pressure can be tough, try not to be pressured into buying the latest product. It's likely that by the time you buy it, a newer, slightly modified version will be out.

• How will this purchase impact the environment? One big consideration is packaging. Avoid overpackaged goods or leave packaging behind to send a message to the retailer and manufacturer.

• How green is the product in terms of its manufacture? Do some research and find out what the reputation of the manufacturer is in terms of environmental record and corporate social responsibility.

• Once you are finished with the product, how long will it take for it to be reintegrated into the Earth, or is that even possible?

Remember that recycling should be the last resort. First, think about reducing and then reusing.

WHAT YOU DON'T BUY ALSO COUNTS

The consumer products that Keith Treffrey at Earth Day Canada doesn't buy sends just as big a message as what he does buy.

• Has a small, high-efficiency air conditioner, but relies most on natural cooling methods in the summer — shutting blinds and curtains during the day and opening windows at night.

• Bought a push mower instead of gas- or electric-powered.

• Shares tools and ladders with neighbours — "rather than each one of us buying our own."

• Shares a car with his ex-wife (whoever has the kids gets the car).

• He doesn't drive to work — bikes all year round.

EARTH DAY
Sunday April 22

Earth Day is a great time to THINK about your activities and how they affect the planet. CHOOSE to live more environmentally friendly, and to DO something that many citizens are already doing — living more green.

Here's what the City of Saskatoon is doing...

- **Transit Eco Pass**—a discounted bus pass program for employers and the University of Saskatchewan that encourages transit use and reduces reliance on private vehicles.
- **LEED Buildings**—Remai Art Gallery and new Police Headquarters buildings will be LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver and are expected to achieve greater than 25% energy efficiency.
- **Solar Hot Water Panels**—two civic centres have a total of 162 solar hot water panels installed on their roofs providing up to 25% of the heat for their pools and reducing annual greenhouse gas emissions by 111 tonnes (equivalent to taking 21 cars off the road).
- **Green Energy Park**—the Landfill Gas Capture System will mean an annual greenhouse gas reduction of over 46,000 tonnes (equivalent to taking over 9,000 cars off the road).
- **Leaf and Grass Collection Program**—this popular program has grown to over 3,000 households and is fully subscribed every year. In 2011, over 1,000 tonnes of yard waste was composted and used as soil nutrients instead of going to the landfill. Don't forget, citizens can still use the City's two free compost depots—many citizens do!

Here's what neighbourhoods are doing...

- Varsity View/Nutana are conducting their Commuity Cleanup activities on Earth Day weekend. When is yours?

Follow us on Twitter, Facebook, or our City Blog for more information on other earth-friendly programs and activities for citizens. Click on the links at www.saskatoon.ca.

City of Saskatoon

think.choose.do.

TAKE IT UP FOR EARTH DAY

Organizers of Earth Day Canada (earthday.ca) are asking Canadians to help create a healthier planet by making changes to their most basic daily habits.

This year's **"Take It Up"** Earth Day campaign is aimed at getting people to reduce their environmental footprint — by eating and preparing plant-based foods at home, drinking tap (not bottled) water, detoxing their personal care routine, and taking part in more outdoor activities (such as biking or walking instead of driving).

"We know that beyond air, food and water quality, the types of products we use on a daily basis, as well as how much time we spend outdoors, can have substantial effects on our health and the environment," says Jed Goldberg, president of Earth Day Canada.

"The actions in this campaign help people learn more about the environmental and health impacts of the decisions they make and encourage them to adopt behaviours that will improve the health of their families and communities."

For all the ways (and lots of other great information), you can **"Take It Up For Earth Day,"** visit earthday.ca/takeitup/.

If you have kids at home, direct them to Earth Day Canada's **"Act for the Planet"** program (ecokids.ca/pub/take_action/campaigns/act_for_the_planet/index.cfm).

ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

"Children are often the strongest, most influential advocates for living an environmentally responsible life," says Goldberg. **"Act for the Planet** provides them with an opportunity to show that the choices they make are equally as important as those made by adults."

Kids from junior kindergarten age to eight years old can pledge to better protect birds, grow plants at home (and clean the air), start drinking tap water in refillable bottles, up-cycle recycling, or create their own environmentally friendly action.

– Ylva Van Buuren

Loblaw
COMPANIES LIMITED

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That's why Loblaw has made a commitment to source 100% sustainable seafood by the end of 2013. WWF-Canada salutes Loblaw for their industry-leading commitment. Working with WWF-Canada and the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), this pledge will have an immense positive impact on ocean conservation. Choose and demand sustainable seafood.

WWF

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OCEANS for TOMORROW.ca

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FRUITS OF THEIR LABOUR

GARDEN PROJECT UNITES CULTURE AND TRADITION WITH HARVEST

These days, the people of Garden River, Ont., are using gardening as a way to unite Anishinaabe people, especially youth, with the culture and traditions of their past.

For the fourth consecutive year, students in the Adults in Motion program — age 16 to 65 — will participate in maintaining the reserve's existing community garden for a full growing season. Students will participate in everything from seeding to harvesting, and then organize a community feast with the fruits — and vegetables — of their labours.

Natalie Barry, director of education for Garden River, says the harvest feast is a good way to bring the community together. It's also a good way for students, who get credit for the course, to learn traditional native skills of providing for themselves.

Native elders and others in the community have been asked to participate. They will help advise on sustainable growing practices, such as composting and fertilization alternatives, and will familiarize students with plants specific to Aboriginal medicinal practices, like sage and sweetgrass.

"We try to incorporate native traditions in everything we do," Barry says.

Last year, when Garden River partnered with the Algoma District School Board in Sault Ste. Marie, students were able, for the first time, to get high school credits for their gardening.

"We're hoping to duplicate that this year," Barry says.

But the bigger focus will be constructing the new greenhouse that promises to significantly extend the growing season, she adds. The school has already received funding for the greenhouse and Barry anticipates construction will start around July, about the same time that summer courses start.

Currently, about 20 families share the garden, but it's hoped that the course will encourage students to continue gardening — in both modern and traditional ways — and thus expand its reach. Given the Aboriginal regard for Earth, as a call to stewardship rather than ownership, the community gardening, harvesting and feasting is a proper and fitting Earth Day tribute.

– Alex Newman

ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

HIGH-QUALITY PRODUCE

Garden River — or Ketegaunseebee — refers to land near Sault Ste. Marie belonging to the Anishinaabe First Nations people.

Long before the Jesuit missionaries arrived in the early 1600s, the St. Mary's River served as their water route to the west. In the early days of the fur trade, when the banks of the river were lined with white pine trees, the Anishinaabe sold their high-quality produce from the banks of the river to those passing by in boats.

To the Anishinaabe and their chief, Shingwaukonce, Garden River was a place where they could farm and hunt — what they called a "Creator's garden."

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Tara McNamara, FANDAGO

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SMART WATER CHOICE HELPS THE PLANET

DROP THOSE DISPOSABLE WATER BOTTLES FOR GOOD

Making a green resolution this Earth Day? How about giving up disposable water bottles for good? Not only will your wallet thank you, but using fewer water bottles also does the Earth good.

Start to finish, there are several environmental-related issues related to these disposables, notes Jed Goldberg, president of Toronto-based Earth Day Canada.

"On the environmental side, the bottles themselves are made from oil so there's an issue regarding fossil fuel use," says Goldberg.

"About two-thirds of bottled water comes from some kind of stream or river and the extraction of that uses a tremendous amount of energy and then the transportation of it."

The industry also uses an estimated three litres of water to produce one litre of bottled water, and there is a lot of energy that goes into the processing of the water, adds Jode Roberts, spokesperson for the Vancouver-based David Suzuki Foundation.

– Astrid Van Den Broek

BY THE NUMBERS

- The Canadian Bottled Water Association notes that bottled water packaging accounts for 40 per cent of all plastic beverage container packaging.
- The plastic required to create all the water bottles used by Canadians each year weighs more than 1,300 empty Boeing 747 airplanes.
- Energy used to make them is enough to power 190,000 homes.

THE GOOD NEWS

- Canadians are drinking less bottled water. Statistics Canada reports that in 2009, 24 per cent of households drank bottled water as their primary source of water. That was down 30 per cent from 2007.

Introducing the NEW Brita® Bottle with a filter inside.
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Enjoy Brita®-filtered tap water anywhere.
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*Standard 500 mL bottle

4

SPORTS

Quoted

"You have no idea how incredibly difficult that was because of the amount of respect we have for Roberto, not only as a goalie and as a professional, but as a man."

Vancouver Canucks associate coach Rick Bowness on the decision by head coach Alain Vigneault and his staff to go with backup Cory Schneider in Wednesday's must-win Game 4 over Roberto Luongo. Schneider made 43 saves in a 3-1 win in Los Angeles as the Canucks staved off elimination, reducing their series deficit to 3-1 in the best-of-seven Western Conference quarter-final series, which resumes Sunday in Vancouver.

On the web

Hall of famer Larry Brown is dusting off his clipboard to take another kick at the coaching can. The 71-year-old was hired Thursday at SMU, a struggling NCAA basketball program that is headed to the Big East after next season. Scan the code for the story.

Capitals defenceman Mike Green clears the puck from in front of Braden Holtby's net on Thursday in Washington. PATRICK MCDERMOTT/GETTY IMAGES

Holtby bounces back for Capitals

NHL. Washington goalie makes 44 saves to help his team win 2-1 over the Bruins

Game 4

Capitals	Bruins
2	1

Until a week ago, Braden Holtby's only NHL playoff experience came from watching games on TV.

Still, the 22-year-old goalie of the Washington Capitals thinks like a veteran. When Holtby was so-so in Washington's Game 3 loss in its first-round series against the reigning Stanley Cup champion Boston Bruins, he didn't let it bother him. And when the kid gave up a tying goal through his legs in Game 4, he shook that off, too.

The post-season rookie was superb before and after that one blip Thursday night, finishing with 44 saves, and Alexander Semin scored the go-ahead goal, leading the seventh-seeded Capitals to a 2-1 victory over the second-seeded Bruins that tied the Eastern Conference series at two games apiece.

"That's one of the things I've just learned over the years: Realize what you did wrong and try and fix it and then you're done with it," Holtby said. "You're moving on."

Olie Kolzig, the longtime Capitals goalie who's now their associate goaltender coach, said he turned to goaltender coach Dave Prior after Boston's Rich Peverly tied the game in the first period.

"We weren't happy with that goal. That's not the way he should play that goal, but he has the ability to bounce back," Kolzig said. "He's a bit of a resilient kid, and he proved it. That's what you want: You want a kid to have a short memory, especially in the playoffs."

The Canadian is 16 years younger than Bruins goalie Tim Thomas, who earned last season's Conn Smythe and Vezina trophies, and is playing in his first NHL post-season because of injuries to Washington's top two goalies, Tomas Vokoun and Michal Neuvirth.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

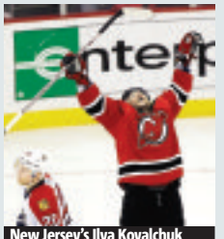
Brodeur sets new shutout standard in Game 4 victory

Martin Brodeur bounced back from his shortest post-season performance with a record-setting 24th Stanley Cup playoff shutout, leading the New Jersey Devils to a 4-0 victory over the Florida Panthers Thursday night, tying their first-round series at 2-2.

Brodeur made 26 saves in taking over sole possession of the post-season shutout mark from Patrick Roy. The 39-year-old goaltender also added his second assist of the series, giving him 10 for his career, four behind all-time leader Grant Fuhr.

The effort came two days after Brodeur was lifted after giving up three goals in 22:18 in a 4-3 loss.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



New Jersey's Ilya Kovalchuk celebrates his goal on Thursday. JULIO CORTEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

Coyotes take 3-1 lead over Hawks

Mikkel Boedker scored in overtime for the second straight game and the Phoenix Coyotes beat the Chicago Blackhawks 3-2 on Thursday night to take a 3-1 lead in the first-round series. Boedker skated ahead of defenceman Nick Leddy and shovelled the puck under goalie Corey Crawford at 2:15 in the fourth straight game that has gone to an extra period.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL. Gretzky surprised by violence

If old-time hockey is back, it's left many — from Al Arbour to Wayne Gretzky and even Don Cherry — questioning whether they like the gritty sequel.

Stopping well short of making comparisons to the bloody, gap-toothed Broad Street Bully era of the 1970s, Arbour is upset with the head-hunting hits and suspension-a-day headlines dominating the first round of the NHL playoffs.

"It surprises me," the retired hall of fame coach said by phone from his home in Florida. "Never mind what it was in our day. It's getting carried away. They're getting carried away with everything. They're reckless in what they're doing right now."

He's not alone in wondering whether today's game is crossing the line from thrilling to thuggery.

"It's a little bit risqué right now, there's no question," Gretzky told Philadelphia's Fanatic-Radio, while noting he's most surprised by how star players are being targeted.

"They talk about the Flyers back in the '70s, guys like Bobby Kelly, Moose Dupont and Dave Schultz. But you never really saw those guys go after guys like Bobby Orr or Mario Lemieux or Phil Esposito," Gretzky said. "It was just sort of honest, hard, rough-nosed hockey.

"And it's changed."

Wayne Gretzky
BRYAN STEFFY/GETTY IMAGES FILE

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Curling. Scott Howard gets win over his dad

It was less than two weeks ago that Scott and his father Glenn Howard were celebrating after their victory at the world men's curling championship in Switzerland.

On Thursday, they were opponents at the Sun Life Financial Players' Championship in Prince Edward Island and the youngster came through with an upset victory.

Scott, who plays second for John Epping's Toronto rink, helped his team to a 6-3 win at Credit Union Place.

The elder Howard struggled early, coming up short on a draw in the first end.

The elder Howard teamed with Middaugh, Brent Laing and Craig Savill to win world gold at St. Jakobshalle earlier this month. Scott was an alternate on the team.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"Good win over pops.. Move to 2-1!! Koe tonight"

Scott Howard tweeted after the win

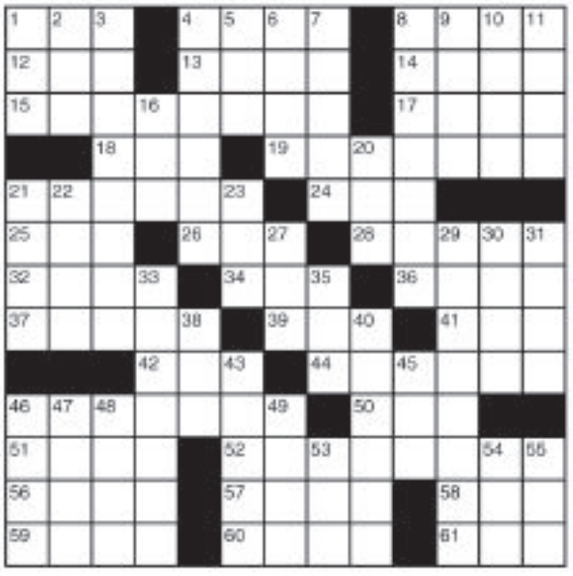
Crossword

Across

1 Tummy muscles
4 Not up yet
8 Conceal in the hand
12 Attack dog's command
13 Approach
14 Largest of the seven
15 "The Departed" director
17 Gets stuck
18 Tier
19 Convict's dreams
21 Pele's game
24 Bottom line
25 Blond shade
26 Bad hairpiece
28 Turkish official
32 Mirth
34 "1 vs. 100" group
36 Wound cover
37 Heart line?
39 Homer's interjection
41 Raw rock
42 With it
44 Keg
46 Additionally
50 Stannum
51 Oil acronym
52 Venomous arachnid
56 Mrs. Zeus
57 Color quality
58 Cagers' grp.
59 Authentic
60 Due
61 Show-biz job

Down

1 Balaam's mount
2 Pen name
3 Really hot day
4 Question, on "Jeopardy!"
5 Quilters' get-together
6 Relaxation
7 Gown
8 Sleepover raiments
9 Now, in a memo
10 Rickey flavor
11 Sunday service
16 Sinbad's bird
20 Golfer's target
21 "The Forsyte —"
22 Scandinavian city
23 Pirates' quaff
27 Pantheon member
29 Disdainful treatment
30 Aesopian also-ran
31 First victim
33 Moral
35 Go up and down
38 Succor
40 Odium
43 Trattoria sauce
45 Wardrobe malfunction
46 Physicist Niels
47 Duel tool
48 Antitoxins
49 Garbage barge
53 Indivisible
54 Sapporo sash
55 Gripe repeatedly



Sudoku

		7				6		
	2	4	7		5	8	1	
8	6						4	5
			3	1	9			
				2				
			8	4	6			
7	1						8	9
	4	6	9		2	3	7	
		9				2		

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku

1	3	5	4	9	2	8	6	7
8	9	4	3	6	7	5	2	1
2	7	6	1	8	5	4	9	3
9	2	8	6	1	4	7	3	5
3	5	7	9	2	8	6	1	4
6	4	1	5	7	3	9	8	2
4	1	2	8	5	6	3	7	9
7	6	3	2	4	9	1	5	8
5	8	9	7	3	1	2	4	6

Yesterday's Crossword

Cryptoquip

How to play
This is a substitution cipher where one letter stands for another. Eg: If X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle.

WN CKT NWLQOC IGKS TS RKZQ BNEQA-PWLLQA IBLPWQR, KLQ IKTOP RBC EGBE CKT ZWLIQ ZWLER.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: FLICK ABOUT A GIFTED GECKO WHO GROWS UP TO BE A WHIZ-BANG CARPENTER: "THE LIZARD OF SAWS."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals Y

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Today 10°/1° Rain 80%
Saturday 13°/2° Sunny
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Horoscope

Aries | March 21 - April 20. With mind planet Mercury in your sign forming a less than helpful link to your ruler Mars, there's a danger you'll miss something important.

Taurus | April 21 - May 21. You need to plan ahead and know what you intend to do. Then and only then should you take action.

Gemini | May 22 - June 20. Financial matters will generally go well today but that is not an invitation to take unnecessary risks.

Cancer | June 21 - July 22. Someone whose power far exceeds your own will make life difficult for you today. If you stay calm and refuse to be intimidated, you'll be OK.

Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22. Just because someone is not very good at expressing him or herself does not mean he or she has nothing to say. Bear that in mind today.

Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22. Today's Mars-Mercury link suggests what you think is going on bears no relation to what is really going on.

Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22. You can't take the credit when things go right but deny it's your fault when things go wrong.

Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21. It's quite likely that someone is trying to confuse you by feeding you information that points you in several directions at once.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21. Like it or not, it is now your responsibility to deal with a situation that everyone else has tried to resolve but failed.

Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan 20. No amount of reasoned argument will get you to change your point of view. Let friends know that.

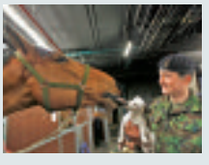
Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb 18. It's unlikely you'll see eye-to-eye with people in authority today. Don't start a war over everything you know.

Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20. There is something going on but you can't put your finger on what it is. Try not to chase it so hard. It'll come to you. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Caption Contest

"Note to my groomer: Stop using Axe shower gel"
Marion
KIRSTY WIGGLESWORTH/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Win!



You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

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